DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Allen Biaggi, Director

Purpose:

• The mission of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is to conserve, protect, manage, and enhance the state's natural resources in order to provide the highest quality of life for Nevada's citizens and visitors.

Department Goals:

- 1. Protect Nevada's air, water, land, forests, open space, and sensitive and threatened species and their habitats through enforcement of effective and equitable standards, policies, laws, and regulations.
- 2. Provide for an effective emergency services program to protect public safety and welfare.
- 3. Promote partnerships with federal, state, and local entities with respect to natural resource interests.
- 4. Develop educational programs and public information services that focus on conservation and management of Nevada's natural resources.
- 5. Encourage the development, enhancement, and promotion of Nevada's recreation resources.
- 6. Encourage the protection and management of Nevada's cultural resources.
- 7. Maintain environmental policies and procedures that are socially and economically responsible while encouraging business and tourism.
- 8. Maintain a range of resource planning, inventory, and research activities. Promote staff development, training, and provide a safe work environment within a framework of stable funding that allows for flexibility in the administration of conservation and natural resource programs.

Organizational Structure:

• The department consists of eight divisions overseen by the Office of the Director: Environmental

Protection, Forestry, State Parks, Natural Heritage Program, State Lands, Conservation Districts, Water Resources, and Wild Horse Program. In addition, there are twelve boards and commissions: the Natural Resources Advisory Board, Water Resources Planning and Development Advisory Board, Well Driller's Advisory Board, Board to Review Petroleum Claims, State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, State Conservation Commission, State Environmental Commission, Board for Financing Water Projects, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, Board of Review (State Lands), California-Nevada Interstate Compact, and Columbia Basin Interstate Compact. The department also provides staff support to the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Statutory Authority: NRS 232.010 - 232.110

Number of Employees: 698 FTE and 200.6 Seasonal / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4360

Web Site Address: www.dcnr.nv.gov

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Allen Biaggi, Director

Purpose:

• The Office of the Director provides the full scope of administrative, technical, budgetary, and supervisory support to the various divisions, boards and commissions within the department. The office directs state policy on natural resource issues to fulfill the departmental mission. The director establishes departmental missions, goals, objectives, and priorities. The director appoints division administrators and approves divisional goals, objectives, and priorities. The office provides functional guidance and support in human resources matters. The office consolidates departmental documents and coordinates departmental communications. The office also provides staff support to the Natural Resources Advisory Board. Due to the highly technical issues surrounding the management of the state's natural resources, the office is actively involved in overseeing the resolution of competing interest claims originating from private and governmental entities or stakeholders at both the federal and state level.

Statutory Authority: NRS 232.010 - 232.070

Number of Employees: 13 FTE / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4360

Web Site Address: <u>www.dcnr.nv.gov</u>

Goal or Objective:

• Expand the department's capabilities in the realm of electronic data sharing, communications, and networking facilities.

Accomplishments:

• Development of a department web site enhanced communications and data sharing capabilities for department staff and the general public.

Goal or Objective:

• Consolidate office accommodations for all department divisions in a central location.

Accomplishments:

 Secured a central location for the department, construction began, and occupancy is scheduled for July 2005.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to provide leadership, managerial, and administrative support to the various divisions.
- Continue to provide assistance with their attainment of divisional long-term goals and objectives.
- Preserve Nevada's primacy in all matters pertaining to natural resource management, whether under or impending litigation, including but not limited to air, water, land, flora/fauna, or wastebased issues.
- Expand the department's public information services.
- Continue to expand the department's capabilities in the realm of electronic data sharing, communications, and networking facilities.

Significant Legislative or Executive Actions Affecting the Agency:

• AB9 of the 2003 Legislative Session (referred to as "Q-1") was a landmark environmental initiative designed to benefit, protect, and preserve Nevada's natural resources. It authorized the state to issue general obligation bonds up to 200 million dollars for natural resource projects. Funds

generated by the bond sales are being used to conserve valuable environmental assets as well as support recreational and cultural facilities throughout Nevada. Q-1 provides a fiscally responsible mechanism for addressing the needs of the environment, historic, and cultural resources across the state.

Publications:

• View department publications, booklets, pamphlets, inventories, guidelines, directories, plans, and reports at: www.denr.nv.gov.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Leo Drozdoff, Administrator

Purpose:

- The Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is responsible for environmental regulatory programs for the protection of the health and welfare and environment of the public. The division's legislative mandate calls for achieving and maintaining levels of air and water quality consistent with the public health and enjoyment, the propagation and protection of terrestrial and aquatic life, the operation of existing industries, the pursuit of agriculture, all while supporting policies that contribute to a vibrant economy.
- The division continues to encourage and promote the use of methods of waste collection to protect land and water resources. The division also operates the Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP) to protect public health from accidents at facilities using highly hazardous materials. The division operates programs to cleanup environmental contamination and programs to restore mining lands to a productive post-mining land use.

Organizational Structure:

• The division is divided into the Administration Office and nine bureaus: Air Quality Planning, Air Pollution Control, Water Pollution Control, Water Quality Planning, Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Corrective Actions, Waste Management, Federal Facilities, and Environmental Information and Planning. The division also provides staff support to the State Environmental Commission and the Board to Review Petroleum Claims. Additionally there is a branch office in Las Vegas.

Statutory Authority: NRS 232.136, 444, 444A, 445A, 445B, 445C, 459, 486A, 519A, 590, and 704

Number of Employees: 219 FTE / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4670

Web Site Address: <u>www.ndep.nv.gov</u>

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Purpose:

Provide policy and programmatic support to nine bureaus, two boards, and one commission.
 Manage and support the Office of Fiscal and Personnel Management and the branch office in Las Vegas.

Goal or Objective:

• Increase data capacity to make effective use of information technology. Streamline agency business processes and enable sound decision-making.

Accomplishments:

• Internal reorganization established the Bureau of Environmental Information and Planning. This new organizational unit brings together information technology staff, agency planning staff, and public information staff. The bureau has been awarded grants associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Environmental Information Exchange Network and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Environmental Public Health Tracking System.

Goal or Objective:

• Improve internal and external communications to enhance staff productivity and foster a greater understanding of the division's role in addressing the state's environmental issues.

Accomplishments:

- Enhanced the content of the web site to provide a greater depth of environmental information.
- Created i-MapNV to enable interactive mapping of environmental sites.
- Reclassified an internal position to a Public Information Officer in order to coordinate agency communications, public outreach, and to manage media relations.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Achieve and maintain levels of air quality to protect human health and safety, prevent injury to plant and animal life, prevent damage to property and to preserve the scenic, historical, and aesthetic treasures of the state.
- Protect the waters of the state from the discharge of pollutants. Preserve beneficial uses of water and maintain healthy aquatic habitat.
- Ensure safe management of solid and hazardous waste; promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; and minimize the risk of chemical accidents.
- Assess and, if necessary, cleanup contaminated properties to levels appropriate for beneficial re-use.
- Provide financial and technical assistance to businesses and municipalities to enable compliance with environmental laws; to inform the public about the quality of the environment and issues of concern; and to involve citizens in decision-making processes.

Significant Legislative or Executive Actions Affecting the Agency:

- AB74 of the 2003 Legislative Session provided authority to establish a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund to help finance restoration of contaminated properties to a beneficial use.
- AB129 of the 2003 Legislative Session clarified authority for the State Treasurer to provide interest on various funds that the division manages.
- AB473 of the 2003 Legislative Session transferred the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program from the State Health Division to NDEP.
- SB58 of the 2003 Legislative Session established authority to certify labs performing analyses related to hazardous waste and other contaminants.
- SB127 of the 2003 Legislative Session clarified and reformed various provisions of the CAPP law.

BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY PLANNING

Purpose:

Plan, develop, and implement air pollution control programs. Evaluate potential air quality impacts
and establish appropriate pollution control requirements through the preparation of state
implementation plans, the development of regulations, and conduct ambient air monitoring.
Responsible for implementing the conversion of public fleets from fossil fuels to alternative fuels.
Coordinate with the Department of Motor Vehicles on the vehicle emission inspection program in
Clark and Washoe counties, including a program for heavy-duty diesel trucks. Responsible for
ensuring air quality compliance. Provide technical assistance to the regulated community.

Goal or Objective:

• Operate and maintain an ambient air quality-monitoring network to determine areas that approach or exceed the established state and federal health and welfare standards.

- The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the state's use of hydrographic basins as the planning area for the purposes of air quality planning in Nevada.
- Nevada is in compliance with the new federal standard for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) throughout the state and with the new eight-hour ozone standard, except for the central and southern portions of Clark County.

Goal or Objective:

• Identify and monitor sources of air pollutants that may affect public health and the environment. Maintain an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions from both stationary and area sources statewide necessary to do local and regional haze planning.

Accomplishments:

- Completed the emission inventory and increment modeling for the Fernley area, along the Truckee River corridor, and near Valmy necessary to facilitate future development while meeting air quality standards.
- Continue to work with proposed and existing businesses, developers, and land use planners to address air quality issues as they arise.

Goal or Objective:

• Work with local government and sources of air pollution to effectively control the emissions of air pollutants in areas that are not in attainment with state or federal standards.

Accomplishments:

• Continued to evaluate and establish effective air pollution control measures through permitting, planning, and coordination with local government.

Goal or Objective:

• Develop an emissions inventory including the modeling and creating control measures necessary for an approvable regional haze state implementation plan.

Accomplishments:

• Continued to monitor western regional efforts related to EPA's proposed regional haze control rule.

- Continued to work extensively with Clark County on the development of its particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide, and ozone implementation plans.
- Continued to work extensively with Nye County on the development of its Clean Air Action Plan for PM in an effort to avoid a formal designation of non-attainment.

BUREAU OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Purpose:

• Achieve and maintain levels of air quality, which protect human health and safety, prevent injury to plant and animal life, prevent damage to property, and to preserve the scenic, historical, and aesthetic treasures of the state. Evaluate potential air quality impacts and establish appropriate pollution control requirements through the issuance and enforcement of permits for stationary and temporary sources of air pollution in all areas of the state except Clark and Washoe counties. Maintain statewide responsibility for controlling emissions from steam electric power operations.

Goal or Objective:

• Ensure that air emission sources operate in compliance with established air pollution control regulations and permit requirements.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to evaluate and establish effective air pollution control measures through permitting of new and existing sources of air pollution.
- Finalized all major source Title V permits.

Goal or Objective:

• Work with sources of air pollution to effectively control the emissions of air pollutants.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to provide streamlined and cost effective permit processes for smaller industrial sources and temporary construction activities through Class III and general permits.
- Expanded outreach efforts for notifying land developers of permit and dust control requirements.

Goal or Objective:

• Identify and monitor sources of air pollutants, which may affect public health and the environment.

• Continued to work with developers, land use planners, and new industrial sources to address air quality issues in the Fernley area and along the Truckee River corridor.

Goal or Objective:

• Maintain an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions.

Accomplishments:

• Began using an increment tracking system to assist the local government and industry in locating new facilities in the area to better manage the available air resources.

BUREAU OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Purpose:

• Oversee remediation/corrective actions related to the cleanup of releases of regulated substances using a multimedia (air, water, soil, and ecological resources) approach. Administer the environmental response program, superfund/brownfields program, a reimbursement fund for tank cleanup, and certify environmental consultants to ensure that competent individuals are providing services and information to the businesses and citizens of the state for environmental cleanups.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue to work with the EPA to integrate the federal superfund/brownfields activities with state remedial action activities.

- Investigated and cleaned up approximately 3,109 sites to meet state requirements.
- Investigative efforts continue in Washoe County to evaluate and determine the extent of groundwater contamination by an organic solvent, tetrachloroethene, or perchloroethylene in downtown Reno.
- The former Anaconda Mine site in Lyon County has over 23 work plans in development with the other regulatory agencies, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the EPA to protect groundwater resources, the Walker River, and adjacent lands.
- Remedial activities at the former Rio Tinto mine in northern Elko County are continuing, with data collection and evaluation to provide the basis for the remedial plan.

• Cleanup efforts at the BMI industrial complex in Clark County are ongoing to remediate contaminates and turn the site into useable real property.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue to operate the Petroleum Cleanup Fund and implement the Underground Storage Tank Program.

Accomplishments:

• In FY04 40 Petroleum Fund cases were opened, with reimbursement to over 1,200 cases of approximately 104.9 million dollars in Petroleum Fund monies.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue certification of environmental consultants by improving testing and establishing reciprocity with other states.

Accomplishments:

• Continue to certify 691 individuals providing environmental remediation services.

Goal or Objective:

• Develop and implement a program to receive, respond to, assess, and mitigate environmental emergencies.

Accomplishments:

• Trained a team of duty officers, the Environmental Response Team (ERT), that are on call 24 hours to receive reports of releases of hazardous materials. The ERT is available to assist in staffing the State Emergency Operation Center in disaster management and provides technical input and expertise in release incidents (they are not first responders). Received and processed 628 release reports since July 1, 2003.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue to implement and improve benefit criteria used in determining the cost of cleaning up pollution.

• Initiated the Brownfields Land Recycling Program to redevelop impacted properties and revitalize communities.

BUREAU OF FEDERAL FACILITIES

Purpose:

 Oversee environmental remediation activities at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) locations in Nevada such as the Nevada Test Site, the Tonopah Test Range, the Central Nevada Test Area, and the Shoal site near Fallon. Activities focus on cleanup of industrial sites, groundwater monitoring and modeling of underground nuclear test areas, and remediation of contaminated soils.
 Responsible for the permitting and regulatory compliance of active water pollution control operations at U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) facilities.

Goal or Objective:

• Work with federal agencies to develop acceptable planning schedules for the remediation of contaminated sites on federal facilities in Nevada.

Accomplishments:

• Continued to implement the terms of Consent Agreements with federal defense and energy agencies for corrective action and waste management activities conducted on the Nevada Test Site and on the identified DOD installations.

Goal or Objective:

• Work with federal agencies to expedite cleanup of contaminated sites to allow potential re-use of sites and facilities for both defense and non-defense purposes.

Accomplishments:

• Identified approximately 3,200 contaminated sites for assessment and remediation at the above-mentioned federal facilities. Approved over 1,370 of these sites for closure.

Goal or Objective:

• Conduct inspections to determine if federal facilities are in compliance with applicable state environmental laws and regulations.

• Conducted approximately 285 compliance inspections.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to conduct oversight at federal facilities to assure compliance with state regulatory requirements and to work closely with federal defense and energy agencies to continue remediation of contaminated sites.
- The DOE is moving its Environmental Management activities and budget to the Office of Legacy Management and National Nuclear Security Administration purview. This could have an adverse impact on agency funding and with cleanup operations at DOE facilities in Nevada.
- The long-term objective of the bureau is to maintain agency oversight funding and continue to facilitate DOE's remedial efforts.

BUREAU OF MINING REGULATION AND RECLAMATION

Purpose:

- The Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation is divided into three major programs: the Regulation Branch, the Mine Closure Branch, and the Reclamation Branch.
- The Regulation Branch is responsible for ensuring that the quality of Nevada's water resources is not adversely impacted by active mining operations. Issue permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conduct inspections, take appropriate action to ensure compliance with permit conditions, and review the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.
- The Mine Closure Branch regulates mines in closure, ensuring chemical stabilization of all components. Issue permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conduct inspections, take appropriate action to ensure compliance with permit conditions, and review the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.
- The Mining Reclamation Branch ensures that land disturbed by mining and exploration activities is returned to a productive post-mining land use. Issue reclamation permits, review bond cost estimates and establish surety requirements, conduct compliance inspections, initiate regulatory actions, and review the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

Goal or Objective:

• Provide a well-established regulatory framework whereby environmentally responsible mining is encouraged and environmentally irresponsible mining is prevented.

Accomplishments:

• Issued 107 permits and conducted 1,145 inspections. Few enforcement actions were required to maintain compliance.

Goal or Objective:

• Work closely with the regulated community, fellow governmental agencies, and stakeholder groups to improve mine closure techniques and overall mine closure direction.

Accomplishments:

• Investigated mine closure strategies including engineered caps and covers, evapotranspiration and evaporation basins, land application of limited amounts of process fluids, enhanced solution evaporative practices, in-situ treatment of targeted process solution constituents, advanced process solution flow rate and transport models, and advanced risk assessment tools.

Goal or Objective:

• The goal of zero discharge mine closure has gone from an idea to a hypothesis and is now a theory. Agencies and operators are aggressively pursuing technologies to make zero discharge of long-term drain down solutions a fact and standard mining practice.

Accomplishments:

• Through the use of component covers and evapotranspiration basins, there are currently five mines in closure pursuing the goal of a long-term zero discharge mine closure strategy.

Goal or Objective:

• Establish and sustain a system of surety that is durable and fiscally secure.

Accomplishments:

- Convened a state bonding task force to evaluate bonding issues.
- Established a corporate guarantee review panel.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

• Prevent degradation of waters of the state and ensure proper reclamation of affected lands.

BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Purpose:

• Plan, regulate, and permit activities to ensure environmentally sound management of solid and

hazardous waste. Authorized to implement Subtitle C and D of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Enforce the state's CAPP to protect the public health and safety, and the environment from the hazards of accidental releases of highly hazardous chemicals.

Goal or Objective:

• Reduce generation of solid and hazardous waste in Nevada by encouraging waste reduction, recycling, and product substitution.

Accomplishments:

- Nevada currently diverts approximately 16% of the roughly three million tons disposed in landfills each year.
- Efforts are underway to increase promotion of recycling in the Clark County area given the lagging recycling rate.

Goal or Objective:

• Prevent uncontrolled release of hazardous waste to the environment through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

Accomplishments:

• There are roughly 3,500 generators of hazardous waste in Nevada, about 50 transporters, and six permitted facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. The compliance rate for generators inspected was 95%. Permitted facilities inspected quarterly were in compliance.

Goal or Objective:

• Prevent release of pollutants or contaminants from solid waste disposal facilities through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

Accomplishments:

• Completed a study of potential groundwater impacts from closed landfill sites. Results showed that closed, small, rural landfill sites do not represent a significant threat to groundwater quality.

Goal or Objective:

• Reduce the risk of catastrophic release of highly hazardous chemicals. Conduct technical reviews of facility risk assessments, monitoring of compliance with hazard abatement plans and reporting requirements, and enforcement.

- Continued to conduct inspections at the 45 registered facilities.
- Continue to be actively involved with local agencies to review applications for new facilities.

BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING

Purpose:

 Protect Nevada's limited surface waters through the establishment of water quality standards, monitoring, public education, and funding of water quality improvement projects. Develop local, regional, and statewide plans to ensure water quality standards are maintained and impaired surface waters are restored where possible. Administer a laboratory certification program to ensure laboratories performing water analysis for the Safe Drinking Water and/or Clean Water Act prescribe to established methods and procedures.

Goal or Objective:

• Review and update water quality standards and beneficial uses at least once every three years.

Accomplishments:

• Staff updated water quality standards for pH, ammonia, and bacteria statewide.

Goal or Objective:

• Conduct statewide water quality sampling to determine compliance with applicable standards.

Accomplishments:

• Continued to perform water quality monitoring to verify compliance with the standards on all major water systems within Nevada.

Goal or Objective:

• Prepare water quality assessment reports and impaired surface water listings. Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to improve surface water quality. Mitigate the adverse effects from nonpoint source pollution through implementation of water quality improvement projects and public education. Prepare a final Continuing Planning Process document for how water quality standards, permits, and impaired listings are prepared and processed.

- Published an extensive update to the impaired waters list for the state.
- Developed TMDLs for the Bryant Creek, East Fork of the Owyhee River, Muddy River, and Virgin River.
- Provided funding of approximately 30 water quality improvement projects statewide and participated in 15 public education events.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue negotiating with EPA to embark on a thorough review of the state's beneficial uses of water and water quality standards before developing TMDLs.
- Continue working on the Carson River watershed and plans to transition into the Upper Humboldt River in 2005.

BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Purpose:

 Preserve and protect Nevada's water resources through issuing wastewater discharge permits, conducting compliance inspections, and enforcing water pollution control permit requirements. Administer the State Revolving Loan Fund programs for Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water. Review and approve the design of wastewater treatment facilities. Review subdivision plans for water pollution and adequate sewage disposal, and conduct training and certification programs for wastewater treatment plant operators. Administer a grant program to assist small publicly owned drinking water systems.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue with early intervention and proactive planning through the water pollution control permitting programs.

Accomplishments:

• Increased the activities of the Groundwater Protection Branch to address potential groundwater pollution from septic tanks, oil/water separators, injection wells, etc.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue to assist communities by the issuance of water and wastewater treatment construction loans, and provide training and technical assistance for wastewater treatment plant operators.

- Processed \$206,702,816 in wastewater treatment facility construction loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.
- Processed \$50,090,536 in drinking water facility construction loans from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to provide grants to publicly owned drinking water systems that cannot afford the costs for improvements required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The fund is minimal and will require legislative appropriation. The bureau has proposed funding increases to support small public drinking water systems throughout Nevada to assist such systems with compliance requirements stipulated under the SDWA.
- Seek approval from the 2005 Legislature to transfer the Public Water Supply Supervision Program component of the SDWA from the State Health Division to NDEP. The transfer would facilitate coordination with existing groundwater protection programs to address land development, sewage disposal, and source water protection issues. This transfer would also fulfill the intent of transferring all components of the SDWA in order to develop a statewide comprehensive surface and groundwater protection program.

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND PLANNING

Purpose:

 Provide planning, policy analysis, public information, and information technology services to the division. Coordinate activities associated with the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and the National Environmental Public Health Tracking System. Provide staff support in natural resource damage cases.

Goal or Objective:

• Develop a plan to upgrade database systems and streamline business processes.

Accomplishments:

• Completed the agency 2003 Information Management Plan.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

• Implement the agency 2003 Information Management Plan.

• Develop a communications strategy to engage stakeholders in relevant environmental issues, manage media relations regarding significant or controversial issues, and inform the public of key activities and accomplishments.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY Pete Anderson, State Forester / Firewarden

Purpose:

• The Division of Forestry (NDF) manages and coordinates all forestry, nursery, endangered plant species, and watershed resource activities on certain public, state, and private lands. Responsible for protecting property and natural resources through fire protection, prevention and suppression, and provides other emergency services. Provide fire suppression assistance to counties and local fire districts. Adopt and enforce fire prevention regulations, including fire retardant roofing and defensible space. Provide protection management to lands and improvements for fire districts receiving federal aid under Revised Public Law 95-313 91978, for over 8,777,000 acres of forest and watershed throughout Nevada.

Organizational Structure:

• The division is organized into three geographical regions: Northern (Elko), Southern (Las Vegas), and Western (Washoe Valley) under the direction of the State Forester/Firewarden. The division manages the following four programs: Conservation Camp Program, Fire Management Program, Forestry Nursery and Seedbank Program, and Resource Management Program.

Statutory Authority: NRS 232, 120, 472, 473, 527, and 528

Number of Employees: 238 FTE and 62 Seasonal / 2004

Telephone: 775.684.2500

Web Site Address: www.forestry.nv.gov

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

• Improve the health and vigor of Nevada's watersheds and diverse ecosystems through increased technical assistance to landowners and land managers; developing partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, and the private sector; enforcing state laws and regulations, promoting scientifically based conservation and best management practices; and educating the public on land

stewardship ethics.

- Actively protect, enhance, and manage the natural resources of the state through education, and technical transfer and revegetation of wildfire-damaged lands.
- Provide scientifically based conservation and environmental education programs utilizing Nevada's natural resources and their management as educational opportunities.
- Improve the environment of communities by increasing the planting of trees, and improving the care and maintenance of existing trees.
- Promote public awareness about the important role community forests play in the quality of life for all Nevadans.

Significant Legislative or Executive Actions Affecting the Agency:

 Continued to pursue coverage of agency employees regularly assigned to firefighting duties under NRS 582.100 Heart/Lung.

CONSERVATION CAMP PROGRAM

Purpose:

• The Forestry Conservation Camp Program coordinates and supervises forestry, conservation, and other work projects performed by inmates from the Department of Corrections who reside in Forestry Conservation Camps. The program provides labor for projects, wild land fire suppression activities, and other emergency responses. Provide inmates with training in both natural resource project assignments and wild land fire suppression courses. Supervise seventy-seven 12-person inmate crews in ten conservation camps.

Goal or Objective:

• Maintain lean but appropriate staffing levels.

Accomplishments:

• Evaluated program staffing and implemented a pilot reorganization that maximized the utilization of staffing levels, resulting in the highest revenue production to date.

Goal or Objective:

• Protect Nevada's air, water, land, forests, open space, and sensitive and threatened species and their habitat.

- Conservation camp crews provided approximately 200,000 workdays in FY03 in support of completing natural resources projects.
- Conservation camp crews provided an additional 36,122 workdays on emergency responses; primarily fighting wild land fires.
- Conservation camp crews worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and private landowners to revegetate a riparian corridor, enhance and maintain the stream channel, and seed upland habitat to benefit the Preston-White River Spring Fish, White River Spine Dace, Desert Sucker Fish, and Sage Grouse.

Goal or Objective:

• Reduce the recidivism rate of prison inmates.

Accomplishments:

• Provided training to over 4,000 inmates in programs ranging from basic fire suppression to horticulture and mechanics. The program also provided work projects for inmates to practice and develop work environment habits and skills.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Implement the Conservation Camp Program reorganization through the FY06-07 Biennial Budget.
- Enhance capability to respond to wild land fires and other emergencies through an active physical fitness program and coordinated training of inmates.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose:

Protect the citizens, visitors, and natural resources of Nevada from manmade and natural
catastrophes, through public education, natural resource enhancement, and emergency service
delivery. The Fire Management Program is divided into two categories: statewide fire protection
and NDF Fire Protection Districts. The program is made up of a number of elements consisting of
fire administration, fire business management, prevention, community protection, preparedness,
and fire suppression resources.

Goal or Objective:

• Protect Nevada's air, water, land, forests, open space, and sensitive and threatened species and their habitats.

- Reduced the risks to homes and private property through prevention education.
- Continued to reduce hazardous fuels through priority projects where the negative impact of wild land fire was greatest.
- Completed 24 fuels reduction projects totaling 1,945 acres.
- Continued to restore fire-adapted ecosystems through rehabilitation.
- Provided community assistance for suppression of wild land fires. Provided assistance incentives to communities to promote better fire prevention planning and actions through technical assistance and cost sharing incentives.
- Provided 41 grants to rural fire departments for training and equipment. Provided emergency support functions for firefighting to Nevada's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Goal or Objective:

• Provide for an effective emergency services program to protect public safety and welfare.

Accomplishments:

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of wild land fire management policies and practices through internal and external communication and education programs.
- Worked with partners, other affected groups, and individuals to prevent unauthorized ignition of wild land fires.
- Promoted standardization through utilization of compatible training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, and public education programs for all fire management activities.
- Ensured capability to provide a safe, cost effective fire management program through appropriate planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.
- Continued to support wild land fire suppression activities.
- Successfully utilized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Management Assistance Grant Program to offset wild land fire suppression costs to the state estimated at 7.3 million dollars.
- Assisted local governments in acquiring a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant estimated at two million dollars.
- Successfully contracted "All Risk" responsibilities back to the counties, allowing the division to focus on wild land fire management within two of its six fire protection districts.

Goal or Objective:

• Promote partnerships with all federal, state, and local entities with respect to natural resource

interests.

Accomplishments:

- Entered into the initial steps for interagency fire management planning with federal partners.
- Participated in the formation of a fuels management-working group for collaboration of fuels projects throughout the state.
- Completed an independent review of the Fire Management Program.
- Established, through the state fire protection agreement, the ability to mobilize interagency interdisciplinary emergency rehabilitation teams for burned areas.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue discussions to allow contracting "All Risk" responsibilities back to the counties.
- Continue to utilize a strategy within wild land urban interface that emphasizes measures to reduce the risk to communities and the environment. Provide an effective framework for collaboration as referenced in "A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wild Land Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment" and the goals and guiding principals of the "Ten Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan."
- Continue more efficient and effective mobilization of local government resources for the purpose of wild land fire protection to communities at risk to wildfire.
- Continue to foster the effective utilization of the FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

FORESTRY NURSERY AND SEEDBANK PROGRAM

Purpose:

- Responsible for the statewide planning, administration, and implementation of native plant
 materials program. The Forestry Nursery and Seedbank Program funded through plant sales at the
 Washoe Valley and Las Vegas nurseries, wood sales revenues from Lake Tahoe State Park, and
 seed sales at the seedbank.
- The nurseries are enterprise budgets for which plant material sales is the primary source of revenue. The Las Vegas Nursery is the primary production nursery system producing a portion of the material sold at the Washoe Valley Nursery.

Goal or Objective:

• Promote partnerships with all federal, state, and local entities regarding natural resource interests.

- The Las Vegas Nursery partnered with the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Las Vegas Springs Preserve to provide native plants for extensive restoration work in the Las Vegas Wash.
- Additional partnerships provided plant materials to the Wetlands Park, Overton Wildlife Refuge, Henderson Bird Sanctuary, Lake Mead National Park, Ducks Unlimited, BLM, and various local governments.
- The Washoe Valley Nursery provided native and adapted plants and seed to numerous projects across Western and Northern Nevada through partnerships with the Nature Conservancy, Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (referred to as "Tahoe EIP"), Conservation Districts, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest, and local governments.
- Provided over 200,000 seedlings and 15,000 pounds of seed to conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation projects on public and private lands.

Goal or Objective:

• Protect Nevada's air, water, land, forests, open space, and sensitive and threatened species and their habitats.

Accomplishments:

• Engaged in the protection, management, and propagation strategies for plants listed under NRS 527.

Goal or Objective:

 Develop educational programs and public information services that focus on conservation and management of Nevada's natural resources.

Accomplishments:

- Provided technical assistance to over 300 landowners and governmental agencies.
- Provided appropriate plant materials and helped provide information about planting, restoration, and natural resource management decisions.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Implement strategies that promote the development of high quality native and adapted plant materials for conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of Nevada lands.
- Reduce "cull" rate through conversion to plastic containers and use of cultural practices.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose:

• The program includes Cooperative Forestry Management, Rural Fire Protection, Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Conservation Education, Forestry Health Protection, and Tahoe EIP. Services provided to landowners through the program include technical forestry assistance, distribution site rehabilitation, invasive species control, tree planting cost share grants, and assistance to communities and rural landowners.

Goal or Objective:

• Protect Nevada's air, water, land, forests, open space, and sensitive and threatened species and their habitats.

Accomplishments:

- Provided over 250 technical consultations to private landowners and developed 35 Land Management Plans for private landowners.
- Treated 400 acres of forest and woodland for insect and disease related problems.
- Treated several thousand acres of forest and woodland for wildfire hazard reduction.
- Worked to restore and rehabilitate several thousand acres of rangeland and forests damaged by wild land fires.

Goal or Objective:

• Develop incentives that encourage economic development.

Accomplishments:

- The Fuels for Schools Program partnered with the White Pine County School District to obtain grants totaling \$465,000 for the replacement of an old oil burning heating system with a biomass fueled system that runs on recycled forest products and community wood waste.
- The Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded \$101,425 to 16 projects benefiting Nevada communities, agencies, and groups. The funds were matched with \$154,520 and 118 volunteers were involved in planting trees for community benefits.

Goal or Objective:

• Develop educational programs and public information services that focus on conservation and management of Nevada's natural resources.

- Approximately 470 fifth grade students participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest and learned about how trees benefit the urban environment.
- Provided workshops for 74 teachers to learn about natural resources.
- Provided opportunities for 870 students to learn more about the environment and science through partnerships with Nevada Cooperative Extension Service, Great Basin Outdoor School, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and Nevada Natural Resource Education Council.

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

David Morrow, Administrator

Purpose:

• The Division of State Parks acquire, protect, develop, and interpret a well-balanced system of areas with outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of Nevada's citizens and visitors, and that such areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage.

Organizational Structure:

• The division is comprised of four sections: Administration, Accounting and Personnel, Park Operations and Maintenance, and Planning and Development. The Administration Section helps provide overall direction and leadership to the entire organization, sets goals, establishes policies, monitors budgets and contracts, and assures the division meets its performance indicators. The Accounting and Personnel Section provide services to the field staff in accounting and personnel issues. The Operations and Maintenance Section provide the field services to manage and maintain 24 parks in four regions: Carson/Tahoe, Fallon/Elko, Panaca, and Las Vegas. The Park Planning and Development Section provide acquisition, design, construction management, and technical support services for the state park system. Staff also provides technical assistance to field personnel, administer grants to other government entities, and review activities that affect the state park system.

Statutory Authority: NRS 232.135, 384, and 407

Number of Employees: 105 FTE and 138 Seasonal / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4384

Web Site Address: www.parks.nv.gov

Goal or Objective:

• Continue to manage, protect, operate, and maintain existing and future units of the state park system.

Accomplishments:

- Started construction of the Old Mormon Fort Visitor Center with an anticipated completion date to coincide with the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the fort establishment by Mormon Pioneers (June 14-18, 2005).
- Implemented a new fee schedule that projects increasing park fee collections by approximately \$225,000. Changed the schedule to allow the sale of park and senior permits based on a twelvementh period following the month of purchase.
- Hired three new positions to assist with the increased project planning and development workload created by Q-1.
- The Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), Transportation Enhancements, Bureau of Reclamation Title 28, NDF Urban Forestry, Federal Recreation Trails, and Wildlife Boating Access grants continue to contribute to state and local recreation.
- The division received over two million dollars from these programs and passed one million dollars to political subdivisions.

Goal or Objective:

• Acquire a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance.

- Successfully resolved litigation regarding the acquisition of the Dangberg Ranch and many of the historical contents. Initiated discussions with Douglas County regarding the restoration and preservation of the ranch house and out buildings. Arranged for the Carson Valley Historical Society to catalog and archive several hundred historic photographs.
- Acquired 275 acres of land at Rye Patch Reservoir from the Nevada Land and Resource Company.
- Conducted planning workshops and continued to work on a master plan for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park.
- Completed the acquisition of 1.2 acres of land adjacent to Mormon Station State Park.

• Initiated discussion with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding a possible management agreement whereby the division would administer several camping areas adjacent to Cave Lake State Park to minimize problems associated with misuse of the lands.

Goal or Objective:

• Continue to manage and interpret the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the state park system.

Accomplishments:

- Worked closely with Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association, a non-profit foundation established to provide enhanced support for interpretive and educational programs.
- Continued to work with the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team to improve management practices in the backcountry of Nevada State Park, Lake Tahoe, regarding additional recreational trail opportunities, improvement of forest health, and protection of endangered species.
- Continued to provide interpretive programming at a number of state park areas and the utilization of docents to provide enhanced programming.

Goal or Objective:

Maintain a high level of customer service and adopt management practices that recognize
individual park differences and assign decision-making authority appropriately. Continue to assess
and improve the state park law enforcement public safety program to provide a safe visitor
experience.

Accomplishments:

- Increased the number of sales outlets to provide better customer service and increased the sales and distribution of park passes.
- Continued to support the division's law enforcement specialist in developing better training and education programs.
- Continued park surveys and analysis of the results.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Attempt to maintain visitor to staff ratios consistent to meet visitor needs and expectations.
- Prioritize revenue generation and marketing in an effort to offset the cost of operating parks and programs.
- Analyze any potential park acquisitions to ensure there is a clear benefit to the state or local

community, and that appropriate measures are taken to reduce or eliminate the impact to the state general fund.

- Continue to explore additional revenue generating sources including the addition of park cabins, agency operated sales outlets, grants, and partnerships.
- Periodically revise park user fees, special use and other fees, and evaluate other potential funding sources. Evaluate the cost of subsidized use of state parks by senior citizens.
- Improve resource management throughout the state park system. Plans exist to upgrade the basic inventory of natural resources, identify major natural resource issues, and reduce or eliminate noxious weeds.
- Work towards partnerships with the divisions of Forestry and State Lands to create an environmental improvement program similar to the one that was established at Lake Tahoe.
- Continue to work towards establishing sustainable development criteria in all state parks and add sustainable development levels to the updating of park master plans.
- Develop a prioritized list of park acquisitions, as well as a measurable list of criteria that can be utilized to prioritize potential additions.
- Develop a cultural resource management program to better care for historic sites and cultural artifacts. Establish guidelines for cataloging collections, standards for proper storage, and guidelines for all historic stabilization and improvement projects.
- Develop interpretive plans for each state park and increase integration of interpretive services within its normal operations and management. Continue to expand efforts to hire interpretive professionals and to provide more education and training to all division personnel.
- Develop a recruitment and retention program to attempt to address a decline in applicants for park ranger, maintenance, and interpretive positions.

Significant Legislative or Executive Actions Affecting the Agency:

- Revisions were made to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), which revised the fee schedule effective January 1, 2004.
- Revisions were made to the NAC, which allows the division administrator to approve off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in selected state parks.
- SB144 and AB287 of the 2003 Legislative Session provided for the transfer of Floyd Lamb State Park to the City of Las Vegas.

NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM Glenn Clemmer, Program Manager

Purpose:

• The Nevada Natural Heritage Program maintains comprehensive information on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, and sensitive species in the state, as well as vegetation and wetland community databases. The program evaluates conservation priorities for species and their habitats, and supplies information and technical advice to meet diverse conservation and planning needs.

Statutory Authority: NRS 232.090

Number of Employees: 8 FTE / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4245

Web Site Address: www.heritage.nv.gov

Goal or Objective:

• Serve as the clearinghouse for state and federal agencies, as well as the general public, for data pertaining to sensitive species, vegetation, and wetland communities. Provide data in a variety of formats to de-conflict development projects and for setting priorities for conservation efforts.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to expand and update the sensitive species databases, which have 7,600 records for 714 sensitive species throughout the state supported with 11,986 literature sources.
- Provided 282 written data responses to queries on sensitive species in 2004.
- Sponsored two workshops that reviewed global and state ranks for the mammals, reptiles, and amphibians of the state.
- Coordinated two annual rare plant workshops.
- Revised and updated the Nevada Bat Conservation Plan.
- Completed a preliminary draft of a Nevada Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan.
- Developed a map from satellite imagery depicting percent coverage of cheat grass across northern Nevada.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for data on sensitive species, vegetation, and wetland communities.
- Convert databases into the international network of Nature Serve to better incorporate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) spacial coverages with the present data system.

• Expand work using landsat satellite imagery analysis in mapping invasive plants and modeling rare plant habitats in the Great Basin.

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS

Pamela B. Wilcox, Administrator / State Land Registrar

Purpose:

• The Division of State Lands provides land holding and land use planning services for the state of Nevada. The division has five major program areas: holding title to the state's land and providing land services to state agencies and the general public; providing land use planning training and assistance to local governments; representing the state on federal land issues and developing state policies and plans for federal lands; coordinating implementation of Nevada's portion of Tahoe EIP; and implementation of Q-1.

Organizational Structure:

• The division is organized into six sections: the state land office, the state land use planning agency, the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team, technical services, clerical and fiscal services, and the Q-1 team. The division is assisted by the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, which is comprised of one representative from each of the 17 counties.

Statutory Authority: NRS 321 - 324, 445A.170

Number of Employees: 21 FTE and .6 Seasonal / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4363

Web Site Address: www.lands.nv.gov

Goal or Objective:

• Process all requests for land services from the public and other state agencies efficiently.

Accomplishments:

• Processed approximately 650 transactions involving leases, easements, permits, and other authorizations on state lands.

Goal or Objective:

 Maintain accurate and complete records for all state lands, protect historic land records and maps, make information about state lands and state land records available to the general public and other agencies.

Accomplishments:

- Protected Nevada's 1,950 maps by scanning them into a digital format and protected over 4,600 other historic documents.
- Continued to input and update land transaction data into the State Land Information System.

Goal or Objective:

• Establish and maintain positive working relationships with federal land management agencies to assure state and local government participation in federal land management actions.

Accomplishments:

- Initiated work on updating four county-level public land policy plans.
- Initiated work on updating the Statewide Policy Plan for Public Lands.
- Helped coordinate and facilitate the 2004 Nevada Land Use Summit.
- Provided comments on more than 200 proposed projects or actions circulated through the state clearinghouse.

Goal or Objective:

Provide technical planning assistance to local governments.

Accomplishments:

- Provided technical planning assistance to Lincoln, Lyon, Humboldt, and Pershing counties, the City of Carlin, and various citizen advisory boards.
- Continued to provide staffing support to the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council.
- Continued to provide planning commissioner training workshops to local governments.

Goal or Objective:

• Coordinate state implementation of Tahoe EIP. Promote forest health on state owned parcels within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

- Continued to coordinate and support Nevada's partnership in Tahoe EIP.
- Continued to serve as team leader and provide staff positions for the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team.
- Completed 11 EIP projects and initiated an additional 30 EIP projects.
- Administered the Lake Tahoe License Plate Program. Completed five environmental projects (beyond those listed in the EIP) and initiated an additional 28 projects.
- Completed work on approximately 80 parcels in the Lake Tahoe Basin for forest health.

Goal or Objective:

• Administer the 65.5 million dollar Q-1 grant program to the maximum benefit of Nevada's natural environment, citizens, and visitors.

Accomplishments:

- Conducted public workshops throughout the state and adopted regulations to support the program.
- Formed several advisory groups to provide recommendations on grant applications.
- Recommended approximately 4.5 million dollars in grants for conservation projects during the first round of the program.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to provide land service to state agencies and the public and process all requests for services as efficiently as possible.
- Continue to protect historic land records and maintain an accurate database of current land transactions and data.
- Continue to assure state and local government participation in federal land management actions and continue to provide technical planning assistance to local governments.
- Continue to protect and enhance the state's natural resources through the coordination and implementation of Tahoe EIP and through administration of conservation and resource protection grants statewide.

NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY GOVERNING BOARD Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Officer

Purpose:

• The Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (NTRPA) implements provisions of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact relating to "structures housing gaming" (casinos) in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Establish and maintain base data plans for all such structures, maintain chronological files of changes made, and review plans for changes in order to ensure compliance with the compact provisions.

Goal or Objective:

• Successfully implement the provisions of the compact relating to "structures housing gaming."

Accomplishments:

• Continued to provide staff support to the NTRPA governing board and review plans relating to gaming structures to ensure compliance with the compact.

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pamela B. Wilcox, Acting Administrative Officer

Purpose:

• The Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission (SCC) assist and regulate the activities of Nevada's 28 locally elected conservation districts. Conservation districts work towards conservation and proper development of the state's renewable natural resources by taking available technical, financial, and educational resources, and coordinating them to meet the needs of individual landowners and land users.

Statutory Authority: NRS 548

Number of Employees: 3 FTE / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.6977

Web Site Address: www.dcd.nv.gov

Goal or Objective:

• Increase the visibility and effectiveness of the state's 28 conservation districts.

Accomplishments:

- In cooperation with the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, secured additional funding for districts in a new program providing \$100,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Implemented a program encouraging conservation districts to publish newspaper articles and advertise district programs and projects. The program also encourages districts to invite their legislative representatives, county commissioners, city council, other elected officials, and the general public to attend tours of their projects.
- Produced a newsletter for more than 350 cooperators, agency personnel, elected officials, and the general public.

Goal or Objective:

• Strengthen partnerships with the conservation districts, and with private and public entities. Also, assist the conservation districts in strengthening their partnerships with private and public entities.

Accomplishments:

- Developed information jointly with the USFS and BLM to enhance sage grouse habitat and to reduce fuels for forest fire management.
- Delivered reports of district activities and their needs at national conservation meetings.
- Met with congressional staff in Washington, D.C. to discuss resource conservation issues and the funding needed to address those concerns.
- Supported and offered input into the NRCS Farm Bill programs.
- Participated in the Walker River mediation meetings.

Goal or Objective:

• Coordinate with and support the SCC as per NRS 548.

- Coordinated five SCC meetings each year.
- Compiled, reviewed, and submitted all required reports from the 28 conservation districts to the SCC to determine "good standing" and processed grants for all eligible districts.

Key Long term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to seek additional funding for local conservation districts that would allow each district to have at least one full-time employee to assist with conservation projects.
- Change NRS 548 to allow the division to receive and disburse grant funding from sources other than the state.
- Dedicate additional time to district training, capacity building, and review of policies and procedures.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES Hugh Ricci, Administrator / State Engineer

Purpose:

The Division of Water Resources works to protect the health and safety of Nevada's citizens and visitors through the appropriation and adjudication of public water. Other responsibilities include the adjudication of claims of vested water rights; distribution of water in accordance with court decrees; review of water availability for new subdivisions; review of the construction and operation of dams; appropriation of geothermal resources; licensing of well drillers and water right surveyors; review of flood control projects; maintenance of water resource data and records; provide technical assistance to government boards, offices, and agencies; and water planning activities such as flood planning, emergency preparation and response.

Organizational Structure:

The State Engineer is responsible for statewide administration of the division. The division consists of seven sections: Engineering, Water Rights, Titles, Hearings, Surface Water and Adjudications, Water Planning and Floodplain Management, and Information Technology. Additionally there are division branch offices in Las Vegas and Elko.

Statutory Authority: Title 48

Number of Employees: 62.5 FTE / 2004

Telephone: 775.687.4380

Web Site Address: www.water.nv.gov

Goal or Objective:

• Conserve, protect, manage, and enhance the state's water resources for Nevada's citizens and visitors through the appropriation and reallocation of the public waters.

Accomplishments:

- Successful in meeting growing demands by conversion of water rights from existing uses to new uses.
- Continued to be active in administering the AB380 program, thereby reducing litigation concerning use of the Truckee River. Allocated significant staff time to negotiating the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA). In addition, allocated significant staff time to Walker River and Walker Lake issues.
- Held hearings regarding the water right applications for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository and subsequently denied the applications on the grounds that the use of the water would threaten to prove detrimental to the public interest.
- Held hearings for the first time on applications filed by Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority to appropriate water outside of Clark County.
- Held 97 hearings and issued 365 rulings dealing with 543 applications, permits, and well drilling issues.
- Issued 1,751 permits and took action on 2,489 applications.
- Completed 5,295 title transfers of water rights, which required the review of 24,474 individual deeds.
- Continued to update and add to the web site, which allows the general public to access forms and databases including well logs, titles, water right surveyors, well drillers, and dams.
- Continued to update and add to the water right database.
- Continued to map the Orr Ditch Decree on the Truckee River. Produced 24 maps that were approved by the State Engineer and Federal Water Master. Currently 126 maps have been completed, leaving three maps to complete the initial part of this mapping project.
- The Preliminary Order of Determination for the Carson Valley Adjudication is being finalized and is nearly ready for distribution to claimants.
- The East Fork of the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge rivers adjudications are ongoing.
- Completed fieldwork on the Little Owyhee and South Fork of the Owyhee River.
- Initiated hydrographic surveys and cultural evaluations for the Ruby Valley and Clover Valley adjudications.

Goal or Objective:

• Ensure that dams in the state are built safe and remain safe for the design life of the dam.

- Protected the safety of Nevada's citizens and visitors by inspecting all high hazard dams, and inspecting significant and low hazard dams pursuant to their scheduled frequency.
- Promulgated regulations to support and better explain the intent of the existing statutes and office policies.

Goal or Objective:

• Enforce the well drilling regulations.

Accomplishments:

• Continued to license well drillers and continued to enforce the well drilling regulations through well site investigations during drilling.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to manage the state's water resources through monitoring existing uses, reallocating water to new uses, and ensuring that Nevada's growth can be based on a sustainable yield. This includes monitoring and studying the effects of pumping the carbonate aquifer on existing rights.
- Reduce the backlog of appropriation applications and change applications while expeditiously acting on applications as they are received.
- Through the adjudication process set out in NRS 533, the division will continue to attempt to quantify and determine water rights put to beneficial use prior to enactment of various statutes (vested rights), thereby ensuring that those water rights are recognized.
- Continue to protect the safety and health of Nevada's citizens and visitors through the applicable statutes and regulations for dam safety, via dam plan reviews and dam inspections.
- Work to carry out the higher priority recommendations outlined in the State Water Plan and review the balance of the recommendations to see how they can best be implemented/accomplished in a timely manner.
- Continue to provide flood plain management assistance to the communities throughout Nevada and the state itself.
- Continue to protect the health and safety of Nevada's citizens and visitors through the implementation of well drilling laws, rules, and regulations to ensure that the water resources of the state will be available for future generations.
- Reduce the backlog of requests for changes of ownership of existing water rights filed before October 1995 and continue to process newly filed reports of conveyances in a timely manner.
- Continue to maintain, update, and improve the water rights database with the eventual goal being Internet access to the general public.

• Continue to enforce statutes related to channel clearance and flood control.

Significant Legislative or Executive Actions Affecting the Agency:

- AB403 of the 2003 Legislative Session added a criterion that the State Engineer may consider when approving an extension of time request. That criterion gave the State Engineer the ability to approve an extension if water could not be put to beneficial use based on a prolonged period of less than average precipitation.
- SB76 of the 2003 Legislative Session made an amendment to SB96 of the 1995 Legislative Session (referred to as the "Stockwater Bill"), which declared that in order to appropriate water for stock, the applicant must own, lease, or have interest in the livestock to be placed on the land.

WILD HORSE PROGRAM

COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES Catherine Barcomb, Administrator

Purpose:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses purpose is to preserve viable herds of wild horses on public lands. Serve as an advocate for wild horses with federal agencies to ensure that sufficient habitat is available for the wild horses. Serve as a clearinghouse for information to the general public and the news media on all aspects of the wild horse program.

Statutory Authority: NRS 504.430 - 504.490

Number of Employees: 1 FTE / 2004

Telephone: 775.849.3625

Web Site Address: www.wildhorse.nv.gov

Goal or Objective:

• Review land use planning documentation in a timely manner.

• Reviewed approximately 250-land use planning documents from July 2003 through August 2004.

Key Long Term Goals and Objectives:

- Serve as an advocate for the preservation of wild horses through intergovernmental reviews and evaluations. Monitor and respond to federal land management environmental and action documents.
- Continue to encourage public participation in all aspects of the wild horse program and protection of their habitat.
- Encourage public adoption of wild horses and burros.
- Establish and maintain appropriate management levels to preserve rangeland health.
- Work to reduce the levels of conflict and open lines of communications between the various interest groups, state agencies, and federal agencies.
- Continue to assist in establishing a National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation in partnership with the BLM.
- Continue to work with the foundation to enhance the BLM's adoption/education program.
- Continue to work with partners from the private sector, state agencies, and federal agencies to achieve the goals projected in the "Plan of Goals, Strategies, and Recommendations for the Preservation and Protection of the Wild Horses for the State of Nevada."
- Seek to enhance the adoption and holding program by coordinating with the BLM's 2002-2005 Strategic Plan through partnership with the DOC.
- Partner with the DOC in fundraising efforts to build the Orphan Foal Rescue Center at the Silver Springs Correctional Center.
- Work with the National Wild Horse and Burro Show Association and the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo group to enhance educational opportunities and the adoption program.
- Seek partnership options for the Oliver Ranch Project, co-sponsored by the BLM and "Outside Las Vegas," to enhance educational programs for the environment and the wild horse program.

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